

IOWA EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
Minutes of September 29, 2005
Hoover Building, Level A
Des Moines, Iowa

Members Present:

#Elizabeth Christiansen
#Anne Jackson
#Sue Lagneaux
Kathy Lee
Frank Magsamen
#David Miller
Heidi Patterson-Runyan
(Via phone)
Daniel Rogers
(Via phone)
Chris Scase
John Whipple

Absent:

Julie Bell
Dean House
Mary Jones
#Jim Kenkel
Brad Nocita
(# - voting member)

Staff:

George Hess - EPA
Tina Lowery – EPA
Jim McDonald – EPA
Paul Sadler – HLSEM
Lisa Sexton – HLSEM
Mark Smith - EPA
Rodney Tucker - DNR

Member of the Public:

Bob Goldhammer

A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Chris Scase at 9:00 AM.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Elizabeth Christensen to approve March 3, 2005 minutes. Second by Sue Lagneaux. The motion carried.

Correspondence, Speeches, Conference Reports

Chris Scase, Kathy Lee, Adam Broughton and Paul Sadler (and others) attended the August Region 7 LEPC Conference in Kansas City MO. Sixteen LEPC members requested funding but out of those, only 9 accepted funding attended. Tina said that 40 people from Iowa were at the conference. On Sunday, each state SERC had a breakout session with their LEPCs. Iowa had a good turn-out. One issue was the lack of Tier2 information. Bob Goldhammer complemented Adam Broughton for his role on the planning committee, especially with the vendors. Tina Lowery thanked Kathy Lee for the class she conducted. The grant writing track got the highest marks from participants. There was a broad base of topics. Ninety five percent of the participants said the conference was beneficial to their jobs, up from 50% at the last conference. Attendance was higher than last conference also. Good Conference.

Anne Jackson spoke at the Ag Safety Directors Association about some of their most frequently asked Tier 2 questions. Was able to get out some correct information about filling out a Tier 2 form.

Committee Updates: Membership / Reports

Executive – no report

Information Education - no report

LEPC Support – no report

Fee Legislation Study Committee – no report

NEW BUSINESS:

Transcaer - Rodney Tucker provided an update on the 2005 Iowa Transcaer Training Tour. A map was provided to the IERC. Seven stops from October 15th through the 29th. Hosted by Union Pacific. Each site will be different, but EPA will be at each site, USDOT will be at all 7 sites, HydroClean will be at 5 sites. Iowa Tank Lines and Barsol will be there with trucks and trailers. At Sioux City Terra will bring in training trailer and Siouxland will also have a trailer. Two of the 7 stops are working with Community Colleges and CEUs will be offered at those two stops. Website is set up to register for all 7 sites. Interest is high. Railroad companies are also attending because they are getting more into hauling hazardous materials. Local EMA coordinators are expressing interest. This is the first time Iowa has hosted anything like this and Rodney has done an excellent job of coordinating this ambitious activity. Media coverage is up to each site coordinator. Dave Miller asked if nuclear waste is being addressed. Rod said he could coordinate with Don Flater.

HMEP Grant Approval - Lisa Sexton /Chris Scase - Packets were provided to IERC members. The process and formula from past years was followed. This year we had level funding, but we may have an increase in funding next year. The Executive Committee will want to take a look at the formula for next year. In reviewing the applications with staff, the first step is to review the requests and eliminate ineligible expenses based on HMEP rules. The formula is applied to the eligible request amounts. Inclination was to try to work with the applicants to ensure they are eligible for as much as possible, however a couple of applications were not complete and tried to work with them as much as possible. One observation, the Commission has traditionally tried to set aside a portion of training grants to support the Hazmat symposium. In past, \$4,000 was set aside. This time \$7,500 because it has been well received. Lisa said on the planning side, 16 LEPCs (68 counties) and on the training side, there were 20 LEPC (73 counties). The numbers are staying steady. Washington County is a new applicant. The need is greater than the money available. Moved by Liz Christensen second by Anne to approve the awards as recommended. Motion carried.

Member/Staff directory - new members/staff - Paul Sadler mentioned the updated directory that was provided to the IERC members. And introduced the two new members of the Commission. Heidi Patterson-Runyon is from the Governors Office (present via phone) and Captain Dean House is in DOT Enforcement and is in travel status today returning from training in Indianapolis, IN. Paul said he met with both new members shortly after they were appointed to brief them on the Commission. Also Tom Morgan is our new FEMA representative, replacing Joe Chandler, Tom is currently deployed to work on the hurricanes. The e-mail on the directory for Tom is not correct - it is for another Tom Morgan in Guam. Kathy Lee mentioned there is a place their website for EPCRA who does what on EPCRA. She offered to link and include more information on that site.

Iowa HazMat Symposium - Kathy Lee - The Iowa Hazardous Material Symposium will be October 27-28 at the Quality Inn & Suites in Ames. There is an EPCRA track. Tina, Anne and Paul will be presenting. Wanted to have something for the new coordinator. Will have a Pipeline Emergencies Train the Trainer workshop on Wednesday. Good industry attendance and representation.

Agency Reports

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

Section 301 –

-LEPC membership – Appointments and Resignations. Paul Sadler requested a motion to accept the resignation of Marvin Schultz from Polk County and Eldon Heavilin and Rob Daniels from Warren County. Replacements have been appointed. Motion by Sue Lagneaux. second by Elizabeth Christiansen. Motion carried.

-LEPC Membership Report – Paul Sadler reported that he has rejuvenated the LEPC membership database that was started in 1996 and dropped in 2000. He has brought it up to date using nomination forms on file and is maintaining it. Currently there are 1120 members on the database. He said many LEPCs had requested membership lists. He acknowledged that some of the LEPCs are not active. He is working with Fremont County to re-activate their LEPC and there may be some opportunities in Adams County. He said that to the best of his knowledge, there are at least two members in each LEPC.

Section 303 –

-Plan Submissions - Paul Sadler reported that there are compliant plans in every county in Iowa except Adams County. He also noted at the last meeting, there was optimism that Adams County was accepting HLSEM planning assistance but apparently there has been no forward motion. At any one time, counties fall in and out of compliance due to the yearly requirement to review and revise the plan.

Section 305 –

- Training Funds and Courses – nothing more to report.

Division of Labor

Section 302 & 312 –

Tier II Reporting & facility Submissions – Anne Jackson reported that things are pretty much the same as last time. HLSEM support staff is helping with imputing the paper copies. Hopefully by end of November hope to databases entered they would have the month of December to update the website making sure the links are good. Hopefully next three months will be good months. That would put us back on track.

Dept. of Natural Resources

Section 304 & Section 313 -

Emergency Notifications & Form R Reporting -Kathy Lee provided the spill reports and field logs and noted that Paul passes on to counties and

IERC members. Spills are a little up from last year. TRI reports - 418 reports so far this year. EPA is moving forward on Agri Processors in Postville.

EPA Reports – Tina Lowery said that HLSEM received a grant for hazmat exercises. TRI workshops in Iowa. Facility threshold amount increased from 500 total 5000 lbs. And modification to reporting time frame to every other year. May look at it on the website: www.epa.gov/tri. The refrigeration manual completed by Pat Rice has been sent to all facilities. It is available via the website. The Accident History presentation - went to the Iowa Safety Directors Association, with Julie Bell with Heartland and other was with Sue Lagneaux, in West Des Moines and Ames in March and July. Sue said they did a very good job. EPA has completed contacting those facilities who had not completed the RMP. An inspector is working with John Whipple. 56 facilities had not reported but has gone down to 25 left. The refrigeration manual will be available for the symposium. Tina said the Regional Response Team meeting may be canceled because of the activities in the Gulf. That decision will be made in next few weeks.

Mark Smith said hurricanes have been dominating EPA activities. On scene coordinators on the ground after it hit. EPA were involved in some non-traditional activities. There were 850 rescues in New Orleans. Region 7 is backing up region for Region 6 (Louisiana area). Had increased roles including taking spill calls from Region 6 because they cannot take them. Airplane spectroanalysis plane for remote sensing - used quite a bit in Gulf area. Some of the large oil spills are so large that remote sensing cannot see through it. Lots of nasty stuff. Have been involved in assessing drinking water. EPCRA TRI Risk Management data is useful in identifying and assessing where hazardous materials are located. In months to a year, at least 30 employees from EPA Region 7 will be in the Gulf area. It will be a long term activity. On scene coordinator warn their engagement may require them to back off on some of their commitments. Katrina is dominating a lot of their efforts.

George Hess noted that Iowa has adopted NIMS. NIMS is being implemented in the New Orleans situation. Looking for specialists trained in the ICS structure. All states have volunteered resource to help with that. Limitation is there is no hotel/motel available. Hazmat teams from all over the country have been fit into the ICS structure.

FEMA Reports – no report

Public Comment - none.

Next meeting will be March 2, 2006 and September 28, 2006
Meeting adjourned.